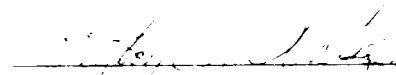


Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Afghahi (6,384,394). In response, a declaration is attached herewith for removing Afghahi as a reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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